

What is claimed is:

1. A method for diagnosing the presence of gastrointestinal cancer in a patient comprising:

(a) determining levels of GSG in cells, tissues or  
5 bodily fluids in a patient; and

(b) comparing the determined levels of GSG with levels of GSG in cells, tissues or bodily fluids from a normal human control, wherein a change in determined levels of GSG in said patient versus normal human control is associated with the  
10 presence of gastrointestinal cancer.

2. A method of diagnosing metastases of gastrointestinal cancer in a patient comprising:

(a) identifying a patient having gastrointestinal cancer  
15 that is not known to have metastasized;

(b) determining GSG levels in a sample of cells, tissues, or bodily fluid from said patient; and

(c) comparing the determined GSG levels with levels of GSG in cells, tissue, or bodily fluid of a normal human  
20 control, wherein a decrease in determined GSG levels in the patient versus the normal human control is associated with a cancer which has metastasized.

3. A method of staging gastrointestinal cancer in a  
25 patient having gastrointestinal cancer comprising:

(a) identifying a patient having gastrointestinal cancer;

(b) determining GSG levels in a sample of cells, tissue, or bodily fluid from said patient; and

(c) comparing determined GSG levels with levels of GSG  
30 in cells, tissues, or bodily fluid of a normal human control, wherein a decrease in determined GSG levels in said patient versus the normal human control is associated with a cancer which is progressing and an increase in the determined GSG

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levels is associated with a cancer which is regressing or in remission.

4. A method of monitoring gastrointestinal cancer in a patient for the onset of metastasis comprising:

(a) identifying a patient having gastrointestinal cancer that is not known to have metastasized;

(b) periodically determining levels of GSG in samples of cells, tissues, or bodily fluid from said patient; and

10 (c) comparing the periodically determined GSG levels with levels of GSG in cells, tissues, or bodily fluid of a normal human control, wherein a decrease in any one of the periodically determined GSG levels in the patient versus the normal human control is associated with a cancer which has  
15 metastasized.

5. A method of monitoring a change in stage of gastrointestinal cancer in a patient comprising:

20 (a) identifying a patient having gastrointestinal cancer;

(b) periodically determining levels of GSG in cells, tissues, or bodily fluid from said patient; and

(c) comparing the periodically determined GSG levels with levels of GSG in cells, tissues, or bodily fluid of a  
25 normal human control, wherein a decrease in any one of the periodically determined GSG levels in the patient versus the normal human control is associated with a cancer which is progressing in stage and an increase is associated with a cancer which is regressing in stage or in remission.

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6. A method of identifying potential therapeutic agents for use in imaging and treating gastrointestinal cancer comprising screening molecules for an ability to bind to GSG wherein the ability of a molecule to bind to GSG is indicative

of the molecule being useful in imaging and treating gastrointestinal cancer.

7. The method of claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 wherein the  
5 GSG comprises SEQ ID NO:1 or 3 or a polypeptide encoded  
thereby.

8. A method of imaging gastrointestinal cancer in a  
patient comprising administering to the patient an antibody  
10 raised against GSG.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said antibody is  
labeled with paramagnetic ions or a radioisotope.

15 10. A method of treating gastrointestinal cancer in a  
patient comprising administering to the patient an agent which  
upregulates expression or activity of GSG.